

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on June 28, 2007.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended, and claim 9 is canceled. Claims 1 -7 and 10-20 are now pending in this application.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for informalities. The specification has been amended to update the priority information. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 9, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,072). In view of the statement of common ownership set forth below, Applicant believes that the rejections on this basis have been overcome.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5, 12, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Linder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,072). Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Mass et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,045). The rejections are traversed. Applicant has amended the claims herein, however, in a manner believed to make the issues raised by the rejections moot. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 9, the rejection of which under section 103 is believed to have been overcome by the statement of common ownership of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,072. Applicant believes that claims 1-7 and 10-20 are thereby rendered patentable over the prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 18 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the objections have been overcome.

Statement of Common Ownership

Applicant declares that, at the time the present invention was made, the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,505,072 were owned by the same entity. Since this patent could only otherwise qualify as prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), it is disqualified as prior art for purposes of section 103(a) under 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (847) 432-7302 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date September 28, 2007

By / J. Kevin Parker /
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28 day of September 2007.

KATE SANDON
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